

HENRY PITTMAN
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November 12, 2003

Michigan Supreme Court Clerk
PO BOX 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Proposed Court Rule No. 2003-47

Dear Court Clerk,

I am writing to express my opposition to proposed Court Rule No. 2003-47. As one directly affected by the negligence of manufacturers involved in Michigan's ongoing asbestosis litigation, I am very concerned that the proposed court rule will undermine the rights of the many plaintiffs to pursue due compensation.

Existing legislation (and Constitutional law) is clear on the matter of due process and separation of powers. It would be inappropriate and unjust for the highest Michigan judicial body to act in a manner so clearly out of its operational bounds.

It is discouraging that an act so harmful to Michigan's working families is even being considered. Through years of dedicated labor in support of their families and the Michigan economy, working men and women were unknowingly exposed to the harmful asbestos products marketed by companies who now seek protection from their victims' rightful litigation.

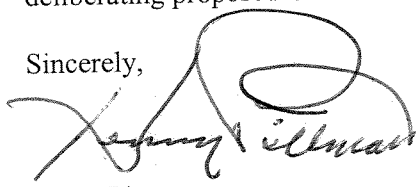
Asbestosis litigation is not to blame for "clogging" Michigan's courts. Records will indicate that just one asbestos case has been tried to verdict in Michigan in the last four years. Even so, it is the responsibility of the judicial system to act on behalf of the citizens, regardless of the workload. It is the rule of law that sustains our American way of life, and the right of asbestosis victims to pursue their matter through the judicial process must be protected.

If proposed Court Rule No. 2003-47 is approved, Michigan asbestosis victims will be neglected while victims in other states remain free to pursue their own litigation. As the defendants' compensatory assets dwindle, Michigan plaintiffs will be left without reconciliation.

I am not a proponent of junk lawsuits or the abuse of the judicial system, but I do believe in holding individuals – and corporations – responsible for their actions. The judicial system is the primary and most valuable means for individuals to pursue their grievances and seek compensation for negligent actions that adversely affect them.

I appreciate your dedication to the people of Michigan and hope you will consider my perspective in deliberating proposed Court Rule No. 2003-47.

Sincerely,


Henry Pittman

